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FALL 2019

UB LAW *f*ORUM

The Magazine of the University at Buffalo School of Law The State University of New York



INNOVATION THROUGH INSPIRATION

- Justice Ginsburg's pioneering journey
- Bold new law school initiatives
- 10 alumni daring to dream



A MESSAGE FROM DEAN AVIVA ABRAMOVSKY



Dean Aviva Abramovsky with Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States at Kleinhans Music Hall in downtown Buffalo.

Dear Friends,

I am excited to share this issue of *UB Law Forum* focused on innovation, the future of legal education and the practice of law, and our unprecedented start to the academic year.

Some might say that innovation is an overused term today, applied broadly to describe any novel effort or idea. Innovation requires far more than the implementation of a new idea. Innovation is the development of that idea in a way that moves us forward, helps us fulfill our purpose, and provides value to society. In the legal world, innovation expands our practice, makes us stronger advocates and leaders, and helps us achieve justice for our clients.

That impact can be seen in the profiles of the creative and inventive alumni highlighted in this issue (pp. 10-15). Our graduates are responding to a changing legal landscape and are addressing challenging societal issues and needs. In the process, they are redefining and expanding what it means to be a lawyer.

Our collaborations with you and with the University have fueled our commitment to innovation at the law school. Together, we are providing our students with new opportunities to work with local startup technology companies (pp. 4-5) and to establish a foothold in the growing sports law industry (pp. 6-7). We have reaffirmed our commitment to our signature programs that expand career possibilities and produce results, including our New York City Program on Finance & Law (pp. 8-9), our award-winning Discover Law diversity pipeline program (p. 21), and our outstanding Advocacy Institute (pp. 24-25).

Our new academic year began with its own outstanding start. It was our honor to host U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on our first full day of classes (pp. 16-17). An icon and an innovator, her historic visit to Buffalo and to our law school reminded each one of us that a commitment to progress can produce extraordinary results.

Thank you all for sharing that commitment with your law school.

With gratitude,

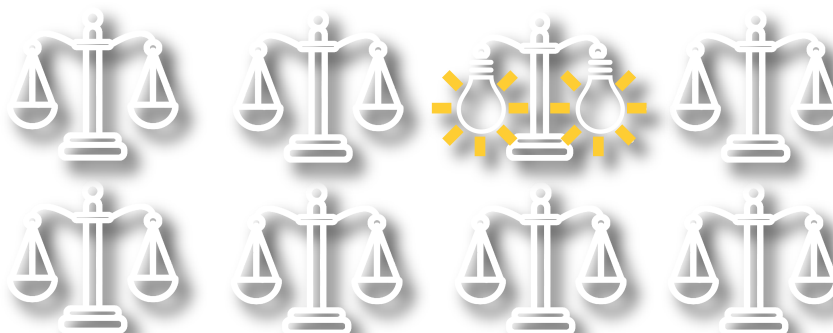
Aviva Abramovsky

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UB LAW *f*ORUM

The Magazine of the University at Buffalo School of Law The State University of New York

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School of Law

INSIGHT INTO INNOVATION



The practice of law – a discipline based on precedent and steeped in tradition – has nevertheless proved itself open to innovative ways of doing business. Data analytics, e-discovery platforms and cloud-based services are now routinely used tools of the craft. As with so many professions, though, the pace of change has grown exponentially over the last decade. Lawyers continue to tackle the ongoing quest to work smarter, broaden their skill set and improve access to justice with creative, even revolutionary ideas. These solutions often take advantage of emerging technologies and seek to respond to clients' growing expectations for efficiency, responsiveness and specialized expertise.

Law schools, too, are climbing the innovation curve, looking to train their students to compete in an increasingly globalized legal market, while holding fast to the standards of zealous advocacy.

As *UB Law Forum* surveys this dynamic landscape, we draw on the insights of two academics who have thought carefully about what's next for law and legal education. **Dean Aviva Abramovsky** continues to position UB School of Law for excellence in a changing professional world. And **Daniel B. Rodriguez**, a professor and former dean at Northwestern University, Pritzker School of Law and chair of the council of the American Bar Association's Center for Innovation, is a national authority on changes in the legal profession.

Clear and present changes

Abramovsky keeps her finger on the pulse of changes in technology that impact society and its intersection with law. Prior to her appointment as dean of UB School of Law, she served as the Kaufman Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Syracuse University College of Law. Recently, she was named chair of the New York State Bar Association's new Task Force on Autonomous Vehicles and the Law.

She sees four main ways in which innovation is changing law and legal education:

- Emerging areas of practice such as privacy law and cybersecurity.
- The demands of a global economy and transnational practice, which requires U.S. lawyers to be familiar with the civil



laws of other nations, particularly Chinese law.

- The use of new technologies in the practice, requiring specific skills training.
- And in law schools, how instruction is delivered – “the combination of traditional, live doctrinal courses, experiential courses and the delivery of instruction online.”

Rodriguez sees particular benefit in the evolution of legal technology. “I firmly believe that technology has been and continues to improve the well-being of those involved in our economy,” he says – “folks who are looking to have their legal problems solved, whether they are mega-corporations or individuals who are looking for access to justice. You can point to particular technology difficulties and issues, but I think on balance changes in technology as they’ve borne on legal practice have created enormous social and economic benefits.”



Visit the
ABA's
Center for
Innovation

The academy responds

So how do law schools address the effects of innovation? For Abramovsky, it begins with building bridges to the legal community.

"It's critical that we begin with conversations internally and with the legal community and with the client community," she says. "There needs to be a broad and ongoing curriculum conversation so that we recognize change and respond accordingly and so that our students are prepared to take the lead in this environment. That's why we provide opportunities for our students to learn startup law through our new Entrepreneurship Law Center; it's why we continue to invest in our New York City Program on Finance & Law; and it's why we started a U.S.-Mexico Border Clinic.

"But the fundamental building blocks of legal education cannot be ignored. The first year of law school remains critical, and we cannot abandon core literacy upper-level courses like Criminal Procedure and Corporations.

"Many have questioned the value of the third year of law school. The reality is that what you need to know these days to be a successful attorney has vastly increased. We need to continue to offer skills courses. The market doesn't provide as much training as it used to, yet our students need to be more practice-ready than ever before."

As UB School of Law continues to refine its approach, Abramovsky says providing the right balance of courses and learning opportunities while reviewing new methods of delivering legal education is a collaborative endeavor. "We're looking at a whole suite of responses," she says. "And we're doing so in partnership with the local legal community, our alumni community, the New York State Bar Association and the State of New York."

From a national perspective, Rodriguez adds that law schools can help even longtime alumni take on new challenges: "A phrase I like to use is 'law school for life,' which means a law school has an obligation to provide education for their graduates many years after they graduated in order to help them retool and reorient their careers in important ways."

Prof. Daniel B. Rodriguez
Council Chair, ABA's
Center for Innovation



Constant at the core

Some things, though, never change, and in the practice of law, that means the core values of advocating for clients and ensuring the justice system works for everyone. With all the promise of innovation, wise and committed practice remains at the heart of what lawyers do.

"There's no substitute for preparing the human mind to be responsive to an ever-changing legal world, or to be an effective advocate through the use of skills acquired during legal education," Abramovsky says. "Attorneys exist because the law is complex. Legal advice requires a prepared, educated and competent attorney.

"Access to information is not the problem in our society. There's ample availability for people to consume information on their own. But the effective use of that information requires the assistance of a trained, competent attorney."

Helping students to become effective lawyers takes mentoring, the dean says – one way established attorneys can serve the profession. "You can't know how to become a certain type of lawyer unless someone explains to you the subsets of skills that are needed to do it," she says. "Technology can't teach you that."

And Abramovsky and Rodriguez agree that only human effort can fully address our continuing struggle to expand access to justice.

"Lawyers will always be necessary. The problem is that not everyone can afford that counsel,"

Abramovsky says. "It's seen as a luxury and that is a societal problem that we need to solve."

"Ultimately," adds Rodriguez, "our justice crisis, which is serious and worsening, needs the active participation of lawyers. I don't think the incredibly valuable and important technologies that are enabling greater access to the legal system will solve the access to justice crisis. We fundamentally need more social support, including governmental support, for legal counsel and legal representation. There's no magic bullet."



Matthew
Pelkey '10

ALL BUSINESS

ENTREPRENEURSHIP LAW CENTER PUTS STUDENTS AT THE FOREFRONT OF AN ECONOMIC BOOM

As anyone who has ever tried to start a business knows, it's no walk in the park. Whether it's a digital marketing firm or a coffee shop, new businesses pose challenges that only a lawyer can handle.

Add to that the cutting-edge technology on which many modern startups are built, as well as delicate negotiations with venture capitalists and other investors, and it's a wonder any business gets going at all.

To make it happen, says **Matthew Pelkey '10**, director of the law school's Entrepreneurship Law Center, it takes more than a great idea. It takes an ecosystem.

"You have all these different components," Pelkey says. "There are the founders, the entrepreneurs coming up with ideas and executing them, but there are also the professional services and vendors they need, as well as educators and

academics, and investors – the finance piece to help fund them for growth. All of these things have to work in tandem."

It's working in Western New York. Pelkey says the region has seen the exponential growth of capital investment in startups over the past 10 years or so, much of it new money coming in from outside investors.

UB has become a major player in that growth, particularly through a major initiative of the University, its new Innovation Hub. "The Innovation Hub supports students, faculty and researchers with innovative ideas moving them from the lab, clinic or classroom to the market, and assisting with startup formation," says **Christina Orsi**, UB associate vice president for economic development. "It also makes it easier and more efficient for business and technology leaders in the community to collaborate with student entrepreneurs and faculty researchers." The hub's leading research partners include



Left to right:
Brandon M. Lê '20,
Victor N. Burdukov '20,
Matthew Pelkey '10,
Zachary J. Dewey '19
and Ashley C. Burr '20

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, the Jacobs Institute, Hauptmann-Woodward Medical Research Institute and Kaleida Health.

Supported by a \$32 million grant from New York State, the Innovation Hub initiative fuels proof of concept opportunities, new seed and pre-seed growth, plans for incubation space at UB, and services to support startups including the Entrepreneurship Law Center.

While the center serves as a go-to resource for startups as they address their legal needs, it also provides law students with invaluable exposure to the evolving entrepreneurial world. Law students working in the center's clinic are set up to serve entrepreneurs – typically other students or faculty – with special focus on the health and life sciences, biotechnology and medical fields. "Our students have been working with some pretty cutting-edge technologies," Pelkey says.

The ideas spawning these new startup businesses are as diverse as their inventors – and UB, as a major public research university, is a powerhouse in generating innovative ideas by faculty and students. "It may be as simple as an app on a phone," Pelkey says, or as complex as a new way to monitor the pressure on surgical incisions, or a better method of growing liver cells for transplant. No matter the idea, though, every startup needs a range of legal services to turn the idea into a viable business – and one that will prove attractive to investors. "It's all about helping them set up a company properly," he says. "There are often intellectual property questions, employment issues, contracts involving venture capital.

"When you're dealing with startups and transactional legal work, it's always going to include business dynamics. It's almost impossible to separate the two. Our job is to provide guidance with legal issues, but to do it effectively in the business context."

For the students, the clinic is a new way to acquire skills that can provide immediate impact for their clients. "We introduce them to tools like the Carta online evaluation and capital management system, equity funding platforms like Wefunder and other innovative tools in the finance transaction space," says Pelkey, who practices as a partner with the Buffalo law firm Colligan Law LLP. "And we're really integrating students into Panasci (UB's annual tech-based competition) and 43North (Buffalo's best-known startup competition). Everyone who participates says it is one of the most rewarding things they've done in law school."

The students' experiences reflect that excitement. **Brandon Lê '20** was part of the Entrepreneurship Law Clinic this spring and is continuing as a 3L this fall.

Among the clients he worked with through the clinic was one from UB who has developed a revolutionary accessory for musical instruments. Lê, working with Pelkey, was able to help provide counsel on the regulations that govern the new world of advertising, including marketing through social media platforms and employing "influencers" to raise interest. "They want to minimize their regulatory risk," he says, "but they also

want to build up goodwill with the public" by avoiding deceptive practices.

Another area was creating legal agreements governing the conduct of focus groups – specifically enjoining the participants from running to a competitor with information on the product improvement they're testing.

"We worked on non-disclosure agreements, basic contractual matters, employment agreements – squaring up that back-end stuff so when these businesses approach venture capitalists or angel investors, they are better prepared to meet with them," Lê says. "Making sure all their intellectual property is protected is really the most important aspect for a lot of young businesses, especially ones looking to work in the tech community. That's really the value of their business, because they haven't had the ability to grow their product yet."

Through its growing network, the Entrepreneurship Law Center is also able to identify interesting externship opportunities for students. **Ally Frainier '19**, for example, was the first legal intern to work at Launch NY, a regional venture development organization in downtown Buffalo.

"It's a venture development organization that invests in early-stage companies, and I was on the legal end of it," she says, "helping with corporate matters including due diligence, composing note purchase agreements, putting together the financial instruments they're using to invest."

Frainier says the position gave her an inside look at how startups progress from idea to functioning company. "Launch NY is a rewarding organization to work with because they're on the front line, directly fueling innovation and growth in our community," she says. "It's neat to be part of something that helps entrepreneurs get their legs beneath them, and to see what kind of ingenuity is happening in our city. It has been an amazing experience."

To learn more or to get involved, contact:

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INNOVATION IN THE LAW

Read more about the
University at Buffalo's
legal outreach to the
startup community

GAME ON

AN INNOVATIVE NEW ACADEMIC CENTER BUILDS STRENGTH IN SPORTS LAW

If you're looking for the ideal way to teach a broad range of legal skills and subject areas, you needn't look any further than sports law.

Contracts. Negotiation. Intellectual property. Employment law. It's all in there.

It's this kind of holistic focus that makes sports law an engaging way to learn how lawyers work. And it's the impetus for UB School of Law's newly established Center for the Advancement of Sport, a major interdisciplinary effort that incorporates high-level teaching and research, public education and policy advocacy.

"We've got these tremendous resources in the university," says **Helen "Nellie" Drew '88**, who directs the new center – the first of its kind in the nation. "Why not bring people together so our students get exposure to a very broad cross-disciplinary framework instead of doing things in a vacuum?"

Drew, who teaches most of the law school's sports law courses, says the field lends itself to developing critical thinking and analytical skills, given that there's no specific body of black-letter law that covers every sports-related issue. "A lot of my teaching is based on getting students to interact with real-world scenarios," she says. "It's very rarely a simple legal question. Often we get into law and pharmacy, law and medicine, law and education."

And because the law school is part of a major public university, students have an invaluable resource: UB's Division of Athletics, which includes 16 NCAA Division I intercollegiate teams, both men's and women's. "We have a very large, very well-run sports business on campus," Drew says. "There's no better example of a community of law." That means opportunities for law students to learn about regulatory compliance – including NCAA, SUNY, state and federal laws – and gain valuable exposure to a high-level amateur sports organization.

As the Center for the Advancement of Sport grows, one goal is to establish UB and the law school as leaders in this field –

enhancing our nationwide reputation and drawing talented students who likely already know Buffalo as a great sports town.

UB School of Law now has a concentration in sports law, and it's adding to its teaching roster. In addition to Drew, **Jonathan A. Dandes** – former president of Rich Baseball Operations, which runs the AAA Buffalo Bisons – and former Buffalo Sabres player and executive vice president **Gerry Meehan '82** will teach sports law courses this academic year. Dandes' course will cover marketing issues in sports law; Meehan is teaching a course in salary negotiation and arbitration.



Nellie Drew '88, William H. Hython '19 and Anthony J. DiPerna '19

"The whole point is to take advantage of our connections in the sports industry," Drew says, and thus build relationships that will open doors for our students as they seek out externships and future employment.

Says Meehan, who also serves as special counsel to the center: "We want to reach across the border to attract Canadian lawyers and students to the program. We have all the major sports leagues represented in the Toronto-Buffalo corridor, and we'll reach out to those

organizations" to create practical-skills externship opportunities in areas including operations, financial planning, immigration and cross-border issues.

In addition, Meehan says, he'll work to build relationships with University at Buffalo academic units at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and with university departments including athletics, finance and facilities.

"I'm intrigued by the idea of getting involved in a practical approach to study," he says. "We will not only participate in teaching students how to think like lawyers but also how to access job opportunities in the industry. That's what excites me."

Marc Davies '03, the law school's associate director for career services, says in-house counsel departments, including in the sports and entertainment industry, are increasingly looking to hire legal interns. The new center, he says, likely will increase those opportunities. "It will engage students who have

"We have a very large, very well-run sports business on campus. There's no better example of a community of law."

— Helen "Nellie" Drew '88



a love of sport and now are pursuing a professional career, and bring those two things together. We've already seen outcomes from Professor Drew and Gerry Meehan's enthusiastic efforts, including externship placements with the Buffalo Bills organization."

That includes new graduate **Stephen Papia '19**, who worked throughout his 3L year as a law clerk with the Buffalo Bills.

"I'm a big Bills fan and sports fan in general, and this seemed like a unique opportunity," says Papia, who completed the sports law concentration as a law student. Papia had previously worked with the in-house legal department of New Era Cap Co., the sports headwear company. "It was a lot of transactions, contracts, intellectual property, trademark issues," he says. "It was pretty translatable" to the Bills position.

With the football team, he did legal research including looking at implementing an easy-renewal system for season ticket holders; examined sponsorship agreements with such companies as Gatorade and Coca-Cola; and developed a system to help the attorneys keep track of contract dates, dollar figures and other important provisions.

"There's not really a sports law area of practice," Papia says. "It's many different areas of the law that apply to the sports industry. Employment law, IP and trademark issues, personal injury concerns – they're all framed in the sports world."

It's that kind of generalist ability that Drew sees as a strength

of sports law, in an industry that encompasses areas as broad as newly legalized sports betting, drug testing and sexual harassment.

"The whole idea is not to pigeonhole people," she says. "We want to make sure our students have rich, hands-on learning experiences and come out of UB absolutely qualified to assume many of the new jobs that are being formed in the sports industry. I can't tell you where the industry will be in 10 years. But the opportunities are phenomenal."

To learn more or to get involved, contact:

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**INNOVATION
IN THE LAW**

Watch a video
highlighting our new
Center for the
Advancement of Sport

INNOVATION IN ACTION

As the world of legal practice evolves, UB School of Law is innovating right along with it. Here are a few of the latest developments in O'Brian Hall and beyond.

1. Now accepting the GRE

More than 30 U.S. law schools now recognize Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores in place of the LSAT in their admissions process. Beginning with this fall's entering class, UB School of Law has joined them, accepting either GRE or LSAT scores as evidence of a student's ability to succeed in law school. The move is expected to be especially beneficial to students considering dual-degree options offered at the law school, which is known for its interdisciplinary approach to education and offers degrees that include a J.D./MBA, J.D./MPH and several J.D./Ph.D. programs.



“We hope that this ultimately benefits those students who may not have access to the LSAT, but who have the talent and the necessary skills to succeed in law school. It may also encourage those talented students who are unclear about their next step to consider a career in law.”
– **Dean Aviva Abramovsky**

2. Entering the world of undergraduate education

The job market for legal services is expanding – but not just for licensed attorneys. In response to high demand for non-attorney employees who have some understanding of the law among other technical skills, the School of Law has begun offering an undergraduate degree: the bachelor of arts in law. The new major debuts this fall, with the expectation that it will one day rival the size of the J.D. program. UB is only the second law school in the nation, after the University of Arizona, to offer an undergraduate degree in law.



“Employers now expect non-lawyer employees in critical areas to have knowledge about the law and regulations. Whole new careers have developed to support legal work. The undergraduate major in law responds to this changing need and these new specialties.”
– **Professor James G. Milles**, vice dean for undergraduate studies

New energy, new ideas, New York City

Professor Stuart Lazar's problem is a good one to have: so many talented and interested UB Law alumni who are available to lecture in the New York City Program on Finance & Law, and only 38 class days to work with.

Lazar, the newly named co-director of the program, will alternate planning and running the fall-semester program with **Professor David A. Westbrook**. This fall Lazar is taking the lead, and he says one challenge is to shape the curriculum as he selects the legal practitioners who'll share their expertise with the 20 students in the semester's cohort.

“A lot of our alumni are very happy to do it and are very

interested in giving back,” he says. “They love working with and meeting students and helping them with their future careers.”

Lazar, who has practiced business law and specializes in tax law, is located in New York City for the semester. The class meets in space rented from Stony Brook University, in sessions from Monday to Wednesday; students typically pursue externships and project work on the other weekdays.

He has taught in the program previously and is teaching this fall as well – debriefing with students after the practitioners' presentations, answering questions and filling any gaps in subject matter.

3. Live from the courtroom

The elegant Francis M. Letro Courtroom, on the first floor of O'Brian Hall, is familiar to many as the site of moot court and trial competitions. Throughout



the fall, the courtroom will host an expanding roster of real-life trial proceedings, affording students an up-close opportunity to watch the justice system in

action. The docket includes a whistleblower case before Sean M. Ramaley, an administrative law judge with the U.S. Department of Labor, and special-term proceedings throughout the fall heard by **New York State Supreme Court Justice Ralph A. Boniello III '69**.

“The Francis M. Letro Courtroom at the law school is an excellent facility waiting to be utilized. This will be a great opportunity for students to observe the real thing – oral argument on real cases. We hope to expand the program with non-jury trials and hearings.”

– **Hon. Ralph A. Boniello III '69**, New York State Supreme Court Justice

4. Driving legal innovation

Self-driving vehicles are coming. Is the legal system ready? The New York State Bar Association is tackling that



question with a new Task Force on Autonomous Vehicles and the Law – and UB School of Law **Dean Aviva Abramovsky** has been named its

chair. The task force is charged with examining the enormous effect that driverless vehicles will have on our legal system and our society, and recommending how New York can prepare for this technological revolution. The group's work is expected to have an impact well beyond New York State.

“Autonomous vehicles are already being tested in some areas of the country, but there has been little discussion about what laws and regulations need to be put in place, and the potential impacts on our justice systems and our everyday lives.”

– **Henry M. Greenberg**, New York State Bar Association president

5. New York City – forever

The New York City Program on Finance & Law is one of the School of Law's signature initiatives – a one-of-a-kind opportunity for students to learn the



intricacies of high-finance legal practice in the heart of the Big Apple. Now a major new fundraising initiative aims

to make sure that the opportunity will be there, no matter what, for the long term.

The initiative seeks to grow the endowment for the New York City program to \$3 million – but it doesn't stop there. A stretch goal of \$5 million would help expand the law school's presence in New York City by increasing efforts to recruit students from the city, funding more internships there and creating a career placement satellite.

It's an investment that already has shown demonstrated success. Students who have been part of the New York City Program find finance-related legal positions in the city at a much higher rate than other students, testament both to the program's educational value and the contacts students typically make.

Gifts at all levels are being solicited for the endowment.



“I've made this a core commitment, on the theory that when one person or a broad array of alumni can help students find jobs in a targeted way, that will make their lives better and will make the reputation of the school even better.”

– **David E. Franasiak '78**, principal in Williams & Jensen, PLLC, and a leader of the NYC Program endowment initiative

To be part of the endowment initiative, contact:

Karen R. Kaczmarzki '89
Vice Dean for Advancement
(716) 645-6429
krkacz@buffalo.edu



2018 New York City Program participants with Dean Aviva Abramovsky (center), Professor David Westbrook (fourth from right) and Professor Stuart Lazar (far right)

“One of the interesting things about the program is that there's not a set curriculum,” Lazar says. “There's no material that we're required to get through. If there's a particular merger going on, I have the flexibility to adapt for that. If there were to be a huge bankruptcy, I could have someone come in and talk about the different steps in the bankruptcy.”

The New York City Program, he says, “is unique to our school. Because it is an introductory course, a lot of the students take it early on in their law school career. They can figure out if they're interested in the world of finance, and come back to Buffalo and take additional courses that complement and add to their knowledge of business transactions.”

THE INNOVATORS

Historically, the path to a legal career was pretty straightforward: Go to law school, set up shop, practice law. Small firm, big firm, corporate, government, non-profit – the settings varied, but newly minted lawyers had a pathway firmly in sight.

All those options remain in place, and across the board, bright lawyers are reinventing how legal work is done in those traditional settings. UB School of Law graduates are no exception, working in dynamic ways whether at their own boutique firm or a multinational corporation.

But our alumni are taking the possibilities even further. They are running biotech startups, counseling clients and practitioners on digital marketing and their social media reach, connecting heavy hitters in business. Some of them are rethinking the whole paradigm that connects lawyers and clients.

Not surprisingly, many of the ventures they're involved in take full advantage of the wonders of modern communication technology, even branching out into advancements like artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. But at the heart of it, they're applying creative new approaches to time-honored skills: using their specialized training, their analytical expertise, their thirst for learning and their adventurous spirit to bring new ideas to life.

Read on as we pay a visit to 10 UB School of Law alumni who are bringing their innovative spirit to their life's work – and changing the world along the way.





Stephanie (Cole) Adams '99

A creative approach to serving creators

It was “midlife ambition,” Stephanie (Cole) Adams '99 says. “I knew if I wanted to build the kind of practice I could feel burgeoning in my brain, now was the time.”

The result: the human-centered, community-conscious law firm that bears her name on Buffalo's West Side.

Adams and her associates serve creators in the cultural world, from writers and designers to artists and building contractors. Many of their clients are members of the area's booming immigrant population.

But it's how they work that sets Adams' law office apart. It starts with their Grant Street building, which is heated and cooled with geothermal energy. They collaborated on designing the office space. “Our clients clearly are culturally sensitive,” Adams says. “The space we've designed is meant to be welcoming to people who want to create the world.”

Their thinking extends to how the work gets done. For example, Adams offers walking meetings as an alternative to sit-downs. “Sometimes when people are talking to an attorney something has made them upset, and walking is a way to channel the energy of that emotion,” she says.

“One of my goals is to make sure law and legal services are seen as enhancements to creativity and not a burden or an unnecessary impediment,” Adams says. “I work hard to listen to creative clients and hear what atmosphere they need to prosper, and then work to create that atmosphere.”

Adams' office recently won a \$25,000 grant from Ignite Buffalo to hire a support staff member from an underrepresented community – a fitting honor for a firm entrenched in a neighborhood that's remaking itself.

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Raad Ahmed '13

Easing the way for both clients and lawyers

In sixth grade, being disruptive could get you sent to the principal's office. For an entrepreneur like Raad Ahmed '13, it's a badge of honor.

Through his legal technology startup, LawTrades, Ahmed wants to do nothing less than change the way lawyers and clients find and work with each other. Launched in 2015, the company is a legal marketplace – it connects small businesses needing legal help with carefully screened attorneys who have the right expertise, then provides a chat platform, document storage, project management, billing and other web tools to make the virtual transaction seamless. (A companion business, LawTrades Apex, serves larger corporate clients.)

“We are trying to create a better user experience for someone looking for legal help,” Ahmed says. “And if you build software and tools that empower lawyers to service clients on their own, without needing a fancy office on Park Avenue, they can provide a much more affordable rate for clients yet keep more in their pocket and work fewer hours.”

Ahmed previously worked in legal aid and at the Texas Civil Rights Project, and says his background in human rights directed his thinking about how best to use his legal training.

“I've been obsessed with the idea of democratizing legal services and using technology to improve access for people,” he says. “I did it one-on-one, and then I learned about the true power of the Internet and how you could really reach hundreds of thousands of people. If you can disseminate information and make law and legal services easily digestible for people, you can really change people's lives.”

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Jennifer Beckage '07

Making data security a reality

Before law school Jennifer Beckage '07 flourished as an entrepreneur, owning and running a successful technology business and helping to lead its sale to a publicly traded company. So when she founded Beckage PLLC in 2018, she understood, more than most, the importance of providing clients with practical legal advice on data privacy and data security issues.

Now her law firm does everything from helping global companies with regulatory compliance, managing their tech vendors and setting up incident response procedures, to being on call in a crisis, even to representing companies in subsequent litigation.

"We're extraordinarily passionate about privacy and technology and its intersection with the law, which is the sole focus of our practice," says Beckage, whose firm employs experienced attorneys, technologists and other staff, and has offices in Buffalo and New York City. "The legal landscape is changing very quickly, and there are a host of international and national regulations on privacy issues. We keep up with these regulations and laws so we can let clients know what we are seeing and help them navigate it.

It's a niche specialization that's growing rapidly, bolstered by recent high-profile data breaches and the complex regulatory environment around information security and privacy. And Beckage says tech issues can't be separated from the rest of a business's operations.

"Technology is baked into almost every type of organization. We all rely on some software or hardware on an hourly basis these days," she says. "It's not just about data security incidents, it's about operational process. You've got to be able to be a sponge and take it all in – not just reacting to immediate needs but asking, what are your clients going to need five or 10 years from now?"

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Adrian Dayton '08

A new wave in legal marketing

The first client Adrian Dayton '08 ever brought into his law firm, he found on Twitter.

The social network was in its infancy back then, and Dayton was surprised to read a tweet from someone seeking a contract lawyer. "That was a light bulb moment for me," he says. "I was the only lawyer who responded. **I realized there was an entire market out there that was accessible through Twitter and no one even knew it existed.**"

After losing his job at a major law firm in Buffalo, Dayton struck out on his own with a new mission: to help firms tap the potential of this new wave of social media to grow their business. He became a consultant and trainer on the subject, traveled widely and has trained more than 17,000 professionals in social media and business development.

In 2013, Dayton launched a company to help firms leverage that reach. ClearView Social, with offices in Buffalo and Salt Lake City, Utah, uses proprietary software to make it easy for firms' marketing directors to get their lawyers' content in front of more eyeballs. Concentrating on LinkedIn, the business-focused social network, ClearView Social extends firms' reach by sharing content – blog posts, white papers and the like – with not only the firms' marketing lists but with the networks of their individual lawyers.

"Ten to 15 percent of the lawyers at any given firm do this kind of writing," Dayton says. "But once that content is created, they're not always great about sharing it. We can help them reach dramatically more people."

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Minara El-Rahman '08

Creating her own path

Minara El-Rahman has been blogging almost since blogging first became a thing. She was a public relations and marketing manager for a footwear company before she decided to go law school – realizing, she says, that the law is integral to protecting the work of creative people.

As a third-year UB School of Law student, she asked her professor in an intellectual property law class to let her create a fashion law blog instead of writing yet another paper. That experience led El-Rahman into a series of cutting-edge jobs in digital media and marketing, starting when she moved to San Francisco and did pioneering work in social media for Thompson Reuters and FindLaw.

She has worked for startups and a construction manufacturer, did digital marketing for a university, and now serves as digital marketing lead for EyeQue Corp., a young company that is developing affordable, high-quality vision tests for use at home.

For more than a decade, she also has maintained the popular blog Hijabi Life, aimed at Muslim women who choose to wear the traditional religious head covering. It combines her first passion, fashion, with lifestyle tips and discussion around beauty, food, parenting, relationships – and, as El-Rahman puts it, “how to be a dignified Muslim in America.”

One thing she learned at UB School of Law, she says, was how to write well: **“Law school teaches you to write clearly and succinctly, in a way that’s easy to understand. And that’s exactly what digital writing is. I still use all those tools.”**

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Hon. Craig Hannah '95

Creative thinking from the bench

Every judge knows there’s a fine line between justice and mercy. From his seat on Buffalo City Court, Hon. Craig Hannah '95 walks that line every day.

Hannah was recently named the city’s chief judge, becoming the senior jurist among the City Court’s 14 judges. But his first-in-the-nation Opioid Intervention Court, created in 2017, is perhaps his highest-profile innovation.

The court takes non-violent offenders who are addicted to opioid drugs and helps them to turn things around. As presiding judge, Hannah played tough-love parent, seeing “clients” – his word for them – in court over a period of months as they went through drug rehab and stabilized their lives. The result: fewer petty thieves in expensive prisons, more lives and families made whole.

“We treat our opioid clients as family. Most of these individuals have burned every bridge they have,” Hannah says. “Our job is to instill hope and get them back on track – getting in the habit of doing well, getting up early, going to work. We give them the support they need, and if they’re off the beaten path, I have to put my foot in their butt, too.”

The approach has reduced recidivism and changed lives, and the world has noticed. After national media attention, Hannah has been in regular contact with other judges nationwide looking to adopt his model.

“We wanted to create something that other people could replicate, and they can cherry-pick the parts they can use,” he says. “We want to spread this, and if it’s helpful to you, use what you can.”

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Vikki Pryor '78

Helping leaders to connect

By the time she started her leadership development company, Change Create Transform, in 2011, Vikki Pryor '78 had done several things: worked as a government tax attorney, held senior positions in the insurance industry, served on a series of high-profile boards. She had wisdom to share about how executives can make their companies work better.

She also knew that magic happens when people engage each other. So she built her New York City-based company on a web platform that enables members to share ideas and counsel from their own experience.

"People are redefining how they work, when they work, what work means to them," Pryor says. **"Our members are part of a community – they can work on their personal and professional development, they can network with others, they can do business development. It allows the person who is a member to curate their own experience."**

The company also provides business consulting and coaching, and sponsors leadership retreats, seminars and trainings.

A parallel philanthropic effort, the Create Change Transform Foundation, works with universities nationwide (including UB School of Law) to provide scholarship support and leadership training for promising students. The program now has more than 100 alumni, Promise Prize® Scholars, all of whom have committed to lifetime involvement in the foundation and its ideals of service.

"Leadership focuses on seeing the whole person, and what we all have in common," Pryor says. "We want our scholars to bring their values, skills, care, concern and compassion for people to whatever they do, wherever they are."

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Jonathan Smyth '15

A cutting edge in cancer care

Jonathan Smyth '15 knows a good idea when he sees one. Smyth was an innovation assistant in UB's technology transfer office, and in his final year at UB School of Law, when he recognized a new concept for cancer treatment with tremendous potential. A graduate student in biomedical engineering, along with his professor, had developed a novel platform for delivering chemotherapy drugs directly to the patient's tumor. The drugs are activated when light is applied – targeting the cancer while minimizing the harsh side effects of traditional chemo.

Smyth joined forces with the developer and their team won first place in UB's Panasci Technology Entrepreneurship Competition. Now the company they founded, POP Biotechnologies, is going through the rigorous process that they hope will lead to regulatory approval for the platform.

"I don't know if I need to be an attorney to do what I'm doing now, but it certainly helps," says Smyth, whose role includes overall business management, recordkeeping, grant writing and investor relations. And, of course, there are lots of legal issues in this highly regulated sector of industry, including patent and contract matters. "There's plenty of legal work to be done," he says. Smyth also wrote the company's business plan and often acts as spokesman in public-facing situations.

In addition to targeted chemotherapy, the drug delivery platform also shows promise for creating more effective vaccines. The science is daunting, but it's Smyth's job to present it in an understandable way. "I'm not a scientist," he says, "but being able to write effectively is tremendously helpful."

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Jordan Walbesser '10

Leading the way for next-generation tech

There's a concept in the electronics industry called "future-proofing" – the challenge of designing a product that will hold up even as technology evolves.

It's something Jordan Walbesser '10 thinks about, too, in his work as in-house counsel for Mattel Inc., the toy industry giant.

"For me, what's interesting is that the technology far outpaces the law, and it requires flexibility and forethought and risk tolerance," he says. "You're trying to draft something or create a deal today that's going to hold up in the future. And so it's really important for an attorney like me to be on the bleeding edge of what's happening in technology."

Working out of Mattel's Fisher-Price subsidiary in East Aurora, N.Y., Walbesser is part of a worldwide in-house counsel group. His particular niche is emerging technologies, such as software and new media, and he deals with everyone from established companies to indie inventors, creating the contracts involved, among other complex legal tasks.

"I joke with friends that I'm a toy lawyer. A video games and monster truck attorney," he says. But there are serious issues involved, especially around protecting the privacy of Mattel's young customers. "I love my job," he says. "No deal is the same."

Walbesser also is active in Western New York's entrepreneurial community, and with a friend won Buffalo's inaugural Civic Innovation Challenge. Together they created a phone app that gives citizens one-touch access to information about services offered by the city, county, state and non-profits. With Google Translate built in, it's especially useful for Buffalo's burgeoning immigrant population.

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Nate Yohannes '12

On the front lines of artificial intelligence

Nate Yohannes '12 was in California when he found himself, through a mix-up, riding in an Uber with a Microsoft human resources executive. They got to talking. And soon after that, he was working for the company.

Good luck? Maybe. But Yohannes says it's more about recognizing opportunities, leaning into them – "and then betting on yourself."

As director of corporate business development and strategy for Microsoft Artificial Intelligence, he led engagements pertaining to partnerships and M&A for the engineering team that builds products involving computer vision, mixed reality and conversational AI. "I would recommend companies to invest in to our venture capital team. Our job is to go out and find ecosystem partners to work with."

Now the principal product leader for Microsoft's AI and mixed reality engineering group, he's in the front row watching artificial intelligence come into its own, with products such as smart cameras, facial recognition and holographic technology. One recent project involves a "mixed reality" headset called HoloLens that's used in fields like advanced manufacturing and surgery.

"In AI, we're so early in the technology that often this is the first time a contract has been written that addresses it," Yohannes says. "Everything I do is brand-new. You have cameras analyzing society, devices that listen to you and analyze and try to make your life more productive. Frankly, I'm working with some of the most controversial technology in the world."

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JUSTICE GINSBURG RECOUNTS A LIVING HISTORY

Ruth Bader Ginsburg never expected to become a role model for aspiring women lawyers. She was just pursuing her passion for the law – one that led all the way to the nation’s highest court.

But, as she recounted in a riveting appearance at Buffalo’s **Kleinhans Music Hall**, the world was changing as her career took root. She innovated as she went, carving out an extraordinary legal career. And now, at a time when three women sit on the U.S. Supreme Court and 54 percent of UB School of Law’s Class of 2021 are women, she is able to acknowledge her place in helping to make law an equal-opportunity calling.



1. Presidents of the Bar Association of Erie County, the Minority Bar Association of WNY, the UB Law Alumni Association and the WNY Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York join Justice Ginsburg on stage for a conversation led by Dean Aviva Abramovsky.
2. BAEC President Bridget M. O'Connell '98 welcomes guests.
3. WBASNY-WNY President Elizabeth M. Fox-Solomon '06 and MBA-WNY President Brittany A. Jones.
4. LAA President Scott C. Becker '93 introduces Dean Abramovsky.



Watch a
video of
the
Kleinhans
event



"Nowadays it's exhilarating to see women as law school faculty, as deans and as law students," Justice Ginsburg said before nearly 3,000 in attendance. "The closed-door era is over. Yes, things are not perfect, but how far we have traveled."

Her Kleinhans appearance on Aug. 26 followed a full day of activities at UB, and it came on the heels of the Court's announcement that she had just undergone three weeks of radiation treatment for a recurrence of pancreatic cancer. Yet the 86-year-old justice was determined to fulfill her promise to her longtime friend, **Wayne Wisbaum**, a prominent Buffalo attorney who invited her to Buffalo before he passed away last December.

Justice Ginsburg was razor sharp during her conversation with Dean Aviva Abramovsky, flashing her trademark wit and citing fact patterns and historical dates with ease. Throughout, she



recognized that her long life in the law has encompassed a period of epic historical change. Justice Ginsburg came of age in the 1950s, when many professions were closed to women by tradition or *de jure*. Asked about women in the law who inspired her early on, she said there simply weren't any. "Women were fairly rare," she said. "The law was not a friendly field for women in those days."

At Harvard Law, where nine women joined 500 men in the 1L class, the dean summoned the women to ask why they were taking a seat from a deserving male student. Her reply: "Dean [Erwin] Griswold, my husband is in the second-year class, and I think it is very important for a woman to understand her husband's work."

After her graduation in 1959, she had not a single job offer. But



5. LAA Vice President Megan A. Gomez '05, Neil Pawlowski '10 and GOLD Group Immediate Past President Aaron M. Saykin '13 wait for the event to begin.

6. Close to 2,400 attendees in the main hall.

7. Members of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra provide a musical prelude.

8. BPO Music Director JoAnn Falletta presents a tribute to Wayne D. Wisbaum.

9. Acting SUNY Board of Trustees Chair Merryl H. Tisch, Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg, UB President Satish K. Tripathi and SUNY Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson at the Center for the Arts.

she taught at Columbia Law School and then represented the American Civil Liberties Union in a number of important civil rights cases before her accession to the bench – “the busiest and most satisfying time of my life up till then,” she said.

Meanwhile, the feminist movement was changing social mores. Justice Ginsburg pointed to her own family experience as an example: When her daughter, born in 1955, was in grade school, “I was one of the few working mothers in her class. By the time my son was born in 1965, it wasn’t at all unusual.”

In the profession, she said, “The big breakthrough came in 1972, because law schools across the country were worried about losing male students to the Vietnam draft. So they over-admitted women.”

And about her unlikely friendship with another Court colleague,



ON CAMPUS



While in Buffalo, Justice Ginsburg accepted an honorary Doctor of Laws degree, presented at UB’s Center for the Arts.

Of her legal career, she said:

“It was exhilarating to help bring down the barriers to making it more appropriate to place women on a pedestal, as opposed to a cage.”

The justice rounded out her visit to campus by meeting with School of Law faculty members, and teaching a constitutional law class in O’Brian Hall.

Antonin Scalia, Justice Ginsburg said: “Although we disagreed about how to read legal texts, we both cared about the quality of the writing, keeping it clear and concise. We would read each other’s opinions. Sometimes I would say to him, ‘You know, this opinion is so over the top, you would be more persuasive if you toned it down.’ He never took that advice.”

Justice Ginsburg’s appearance in Buffalo was hosted by the **University at Buffalo School of Law, the UB Law Alumni Association, the Bar Association of Erie County, the Minority Bar Association of Western New York, and the Western New York Chapter of the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York.**

OUR 130th COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Keynote Address



*Hon. Maite D. Oronoz-Rodríguez
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Puerto Rico*

"Of course, the legal profession is not immune to corrosive influence, instability and polarization. And when you hear that lawyers have defaced their historical duties or become too greedy, or ruled arrogantly, accept that some have. But also remember: it was a lawyer who argued to expand civil rights and end segregation. It was a lawyer who argued for interracial and gay marriage. It was a lawyer who argued for gender equality. And it is often lawyers who guide people through the most difficult and the most triumphant times in their lives."



130TH COMMENCEMENT

View a complete list
of Commencement
awards



OUR TOP AWARDS

RECIPIENTS

Max Koren Award

Alex C. Betschen '19

John N. Bennett Achievement Award

Genevieve S. Rados '19

Dale S. Margulis Award

Joshua S. Wallace '19

Faculty of the Year Award

Christine P. Bartholomew, Associate Professor

Staff of the Year Award

Amy Hayes Atkinson, Director of Student Life



SUNY Honorary Degree Recipient

Hon. Julio M. Fuentes '75

*Senior U.S. Circuit Court Judge
U.S. Court of Appeals,
Third Circuit*

"If you contribute to just one more person feeling that their rights were protected and that our



profession cared about them, you have done a great service."

Ken Joyce Excellence in Teaching Award Recipient

William F. Savino '75

Partner, Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP

"Our law school has graduated so many



accomplished and game-changing students. The Class of 2019

should look to those who have gone before and draw hope and inspiration."

Dean's Remarks

Aviva Abramovsky



"The pursuit of virtue in the practice of law remains the ideal. Though our system may be flawed, it remains one dedicated to the virtue of justice – justice that can only be achieved by the delivery of representation through compassion."

Student Speaker

Melissa J. Kathan '19



"We must remember that with influence comes obligation. In the spirit of this school, one of our key obligations is to serve the community and each other."

Dean's Medal Recipient

Hon. Kathy C. Hochul

*New York State
Lieutenant Governor*



"Don't just defend the words on a document that created our democracy, defend the people who live in that democracy."

So much to celebrate!

Highlights from our big events during the 2018–19 academic year

Our newest Jaeckle Award winner

Feb. 1 at the Buffalo Club

Raising the bar: In recognition of the trails she has blazed and the many fans she has inspired, **Ann E. Evanko '79** received the 2019 Edwin F. Jaeckle Award, the highest honor given by the law school and the UB Law Alumni Association. The first female attorney hired by Hurwitz & Fine P.C. in 1979, Evanko is now the firm's president and managing member.

"When I entered the practice of law 40 years ago, the landscape for women lawyers was very different than it is now. It was not an even playing field, as much as we expected and wanted it to be. So we did something about it. We networked, supported each other, became partners in law firms, bureau chiefs at the D.A.'s office and entered the world of politics working to change laws unfavorable to women and children. And by doing so, we strengthened community."

— Ann E. Evanko '79



2018–19 LAA President Marc W. Brown '99, Ann E. Evanko '79 and Dean Aviva Abramovsky



Watch a video of the presentation of the 2019 Jaeckle Award

BPILP's 24th Annual Auction

March 1 at the Admiral Room, Buffalo



Michael G. Ryman '21 and Breanna C. Reilly '19

The vibe was cool and the merchandise was hot, as the Buffalo Public Interest Law Program raised some solid support for students who'll work in the public interest this summer. BPILP fellowships and grants offset living expenses, allowing law students to make a real difference and hone their practice skills. This summer, BPILP fellows and grant recipients worked for district attorneys, public defenders, the state attorney general and federal district court judges.

2019 OUTLaw Dinner

March 8 at Chef's Restaurant, Buffalo

UB School of Law's LGBTQ+ community and allies gathered to toast another successful year of educating and advocating for dignity, equality and justice. OUTLaw honored the MOCHA Center (Men of Color Health Awareness Project) in Buffalo and **De'Jon Hall '16** for his outstanding activism as MOCHA's manager. Founded in 1996 and going strong, the MOCHA Center connects LGBTQ people of color with events and programs that promote healthy, sex-positive living.



Alexandra S. Balmer '19 with Natasha Soto, accepting the award on behalf of De'Jon Hall '16



Kenyon Baker of the MOCHA Center with Chelsea I. Gonzalez '19



The 2019 candle-lighting ceremony

30th Annual Students of Color Dinner

April 11 at the Buffalo Marriott Niagara

One of the law school's most treasured annual events, the Students of Color Dinner celebrated 30 years of honoring those who lead efforts to advance diversity and equality in the legal profession. This year's honorees were a notable group: **Hon. Lisa Bloch Rodwin '85**, Erie County Family Court; **Tiffany R. Perry '00**, Erie County Family Court; **Nate T. Yohannes '12**, Microsoft Corp.; **Jacqueline Rushton**, retired senior legislative assistant to the Buffalo Common Council; UB School of Law **Associate Professor Christine Bartholomew**; **Vikki L. Pryor '78**, Change Create Transform LLC; and the **Minority Bar Foundation**.



FLASHBACK
Students of Color Dinner, circa 1992



Our 2019 Discover Law class with Dean Aviva Abramovsky (seated in center), Assistant Dean Tolulope Odunsi (standing in center) and Hon. Betty Calvo-Torres '98 (far right)

Discover Law

Opening Ceremony, June 2 at the law school

They came from colleges in New York, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland and Mississippi – talented and diverse undergraduates exploring the possibility of a career in law. Our highly successful pipeline program, Discover Law, began its seventh season with a festive welcome.



Class of 2019 members of the Law Review

Buffalo Law Review Dinner

April 25 at the Park Country Club, Buffalo

A lot of ink has graced the pages of the *Buffalo Law Review* in its 60+ year run, and this year's 30th annual dinner celebrated that distinguished history. *Law Review* editors honored **Hon. Craig D. Hannah '95**, Buffalo City Court, and **James P. Kennedy '88**, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York, for their work and their contributions to the law school, the *Review* and the legal community.



FLASHBACK
Buffalo Law Review Editorial Board, 1951-52



View photos from our events

The next chapter

Three School of Law professors – with nearly a century of Buffalo teaching and scholarship between them – are moving into retirement. As we mark the occasion, we gave their colleagues a chance to express some words of appreciation.



An authority in international environmental law, including environmental certification issues and fair labor standards programs, **Errol Meidinger** joined the UB School of Law faculty in 1982.

Named a SUNY Distinguished Professor in 2018, for nearly a decade he served as director of the Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy, the School of Law's signature institute to foster high-level sociolegal scholarship. The Baldy Center links over 250 researchers

in the University and surrounding region. Meidinger previously served as the founding director of the University at Buffalo Environment & Society Institute.

Outside of UB, Meidinger served as a Fulbright Professor at the University of Freiburg, Germany, in 1999–2000. During 2006–07 he was the Distinguished Environmental Law Scholar at Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, Ore. In prior years he was a visiting professor at the University of Washington and Syracuse University.

“Errol has really helped to keep the Baldy Center visible as an internationally respected center for sociolegal studies. He’s been particularly encouraging of young faculty members, helping them to launch their scholarly careers and get good feedback on their work. He has helped to forge ties with scholars around the world, and his connections in Europe have been particularly strong.”
– SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus David Engel



Martha McCluskey has been at UB School of Law since 1995, and since 2006 has been a William J. Magavern Faculty Scholar. Her scholarship examines the relationship between economics and inequality in law, with publications including a major study of workers’ compensation reform laws, several articles analyzing workers’ compensation insurance regulation, and articles on welfare policy and social citizenship.

McCluskey also is a co-organizer of the ClassCrits project, which brings together scholars in law, economics and other disciplines to develop a critical legal analysis of economic inequality.

“Martha and I were half of a cohort of four entry-level, tenure-track law professors that included Professors Susan Mangold and Jim Wooten. I was immediately impressed by Martha’s depth of knowledge in a range of fields as diverse as feminist legal theory, economics and constitutional law. Martha stood out as a prolific scholar with connections to organizations that were actively working to advance the rights of workers, end racial/gender discrimination and create more equitable opportunity in this country. Her energy, intellect and ability to bridge the academic and activist worlds will be missed.”
– Teresa A. Miller, Professor of Law and SUNY senior vice chancellor for strategic initiatives



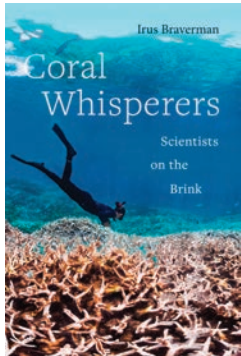
Few academics have worked on a global scale like **Isabel Marcus**, who joined the UB law faculty in 1982.

Pursuing her research interests in family law, domestic violence and women’s human rights, Marcus has taught extensively in universities in Eastern Europe and Asia. At UB School of Law, she has taught family law, comparative family law, women’s human rights and topics in women’s rights.

Marcus is a founder of the Institute for Research and Education on Women and Gender at UB. She served as chair of the Department of Women’s Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences from 1997 to 2002.

“Isabel Marcus has been an important figure in women’s human rights since the very beginning – from being the first person to sue the University of California at Berkeley for sex discrimination, to helping [feminist artist] Judy Chicago figure out her Dinner Party sculptures, to setting up Soros Foundation groups in Eastern Europe to help young aspiring women lawyers work on gender discrimination, to setting up the women’s studies program at UB as well as the gender institute. Very few people have been as important as she has been in the continuing struggle for women’s rights.”
– Professor Rebecca French

Two new faculty books



Coral Whisperers: Scientists on the Brink
(University of California Press)
Professor Irus Braverman

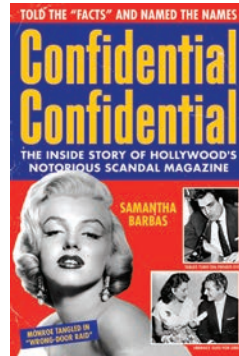
In recent years, many of the world's precious coral reefs have been devastated by a catastrophic global bleaching event. Coral scientists are struggling to save these important coral reef ecosystems from the imminent threats of rapidly warming, acidifying and polluted oceans.

Coral Whisperers captures a critical

moment in the history of coral reef science. With insights from over 100 interviews with leading scientists and conservation managers, Braverman documents a community caught in an existential crisis and alternating between despair and hope. In this book, corals emerge not only as signs and measures of environmental catastrophe, but also as catalysts for action.

“[Reading Braverman’s book,] we benefit immensely by hearing the voices of coral reef whisperers as they speak openly of their uncertainties, fears and hopes. Whatever their differences, as Irus Braverman attests, all these scientists share a deep and infectious love of corals. The author deserves to be congratulated for her learning, lucidity, passion and candor. I emerged from this book feeling a new, if measured, charge of hope for the future survival of coral reefs in some form.”

– *Times Literary Supplement* (London)



Confidential Confidential: The Inside Story of Hollywood's Notorious Scandal Magazine (Chicago Review Press)
Professor Samantha Barbas

Confidential Confidential presents a thoroughly researched history of America's first celebrity gossip magazine and the legal disputes that led to its demise.

With an extensive network of informants, *Confidential Magazine* soiled celebrities' pristine reputations by

publishing the stars' scandalous secrets – including extramarital affairs, drug use and taboo sexual practices – in lewd detail. By 1955, *Confidential* was the best-selling publication on American newsstands, forcing many to question the scope of freedom of the press and society's moral obligation to censor indecent content. Ultimately, a slew of libel and obscenity lawsuits – concluding in an infamous, star-studded Los Angeles trial in 1957 – led to the magazine's downfall.

Confidential Confidential provides an inside view of how the magazine obtained its juicy stories, and established the foundation for such outlets as *People*, the *National Enquirer* and TMZ. *Confidential's* legacy endures in our ongoing obsession with sensationalism, gossip and celebrity scandal.

“In *Confidential Confidential*, law professor Samantha Barbas recounts the inside story of the 'little magazine that could' with drama, humor and verve. ... Barbas paces her terrific story well, and the book ends with her cogent analysis of *Confidential's* larger significance.”

– *Wall Street Journal*

Bringing a historian's skills to the Baldy Center

The School of Law's signature vehicle for interdisciplinary scholarship, the Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy, has a new director. Following the retirement of Professor Errol Meidinger, who led the center for nine years, **Professor Samantha Barbas** has been named to lead the next chapter of its history.

“Buffalo Law has a very long tradition of being a center of interdisciplinary scholarship,” Barbas says. “That is part of our identity, this intellectual scholarly production.”

The new director embodies the Baldy Center's philosophy that the insights of other scholarly disciplines can shed light on the law. A specialist in legal history, Barbas has particular



interest and expertise in First Amendment and mass communications law, and has written three books on media law and history. In addition to a J.D. from Stanford Law School, she earned a Ph.D. in American history at the University of California, Berkeley.

Barbas says she expects the center to continue to benefit from the participation of academics across the university in the arts and sciences. Its Advisory Council includes

not only law professors but scholars in geography, sociology and political science. She also would like to see its range expand further into other disciplines in the humanities, including history.

ADVOCACY INSTITUTE AIMS HIGH

As UB School of Law's Advocacy Institute enters the next chapter of its growth, it's doing so under the guidance of a scholar and educator well-versed in criminal procedure: **Anthony O'Rourke, Joseph W. Belluck and Laura L. Aswad Professor of Civil Justice.**

Appointed in January as the institute's new director, O'Rourke says he's looking to build on the strengths the institute has already developed. The Advocacy Institute, officially launched in 2014, encompasses three key areas of legal training: trial advocacy, appellate advocacy and alternative dispute resolution. Practical courses, extensive research and writing, and national, regional and local competitions are all key elements of that training, providing students with opportunities to learn in the classroom and in the courtroom.

"I envision my role as making big-picture decisions about what the Advocacy Institute should be and the direction it

should take in cultivating excellent student advocates and litigators," O'Rourke says. "We need to establish an endowed institute that builds on the strengths of our students, faculty and legal community. My goal is for us to achieve national prestige without sacrificing the core values of legal education.

"UB School of Law has an incredible number of advocacy-related classes, extracurricular activities and programs, some of which are less visible than they could be," he adds. "My job is to offer an articulate vision for what a student advocacy experience can be across the law school."

O'Rourke's teaching and leadership is informed by his recent sabbatical experience as a staff attorney with the Federal Defenders of New York, in Brooklyn. There he represented indigent clients in a range of federal appellate and trial criminal cases, including a high-profile federal capital appeal.



Prof. Anthony
O'Rourke

OUTSTANDING ADVOCATES



**2018 Queens District Attorney's
Mock Trial Competition,
New York City**

First Place Team (pictured above):

Left to right: Sarah A. Elardo '19, Salvatore M. Prince '19, Spencer R. Stresing '19 and William F. Fitzgerald '19

Best Overall Advocate:

Sarah A. Elardo '19

**2018 Charles S. Desmond
Moot Court Competition**

First Place Team:

Destiny M. Johnson '20 and
Chloe J. Nowak '20

Best Brief:

Julia A. O'Sullivan '20 and
Samantha R. Rubino '20

Best Oral Advocate:

Destiny M. Johnson '20

**George Kannar Award
Winner:**

Hannah M. Rauh '20

**2018 New York State
Bar Association's
Judith S. Kaye Arbitration
Competition, New York City**

Best Brief:

Kristen R. Spulecki '19,
Vicki M. Bell '19 and
Emily G. Sauer '19

**2018 Buffalo-Niagara
Mock Trial Competition,
Buffalo**

Best Direct Examination:

Jacob M. Eckenrode '19

"I was grateful for the opportunity to get more firsthand experience in the complexity of criminal practice, including federal capital litigation but also the sort of cases that consume the vast majority of a public defender's time," he says. "I wanted to spend some time engaging with the realities of practice, particularly the experience of serving clients."

"I was humbled by my time at the Federal Defenders, and am confident that it will help me build an informed and engaged scholarly agenda. The experience renewed my appreciation of the demands of practice. Litigating in an office with excellent attorneys made me value, even more, the importance of a traditional legal education taught by faculty who have a national reputation for scholarly research. That type of thinking was more important to the process of creative lawyering than I had assumed."

The institute's mission is furthered with the recent appointment of **Lucinda Finley, Frank G. Raichle Professor of Trial and Appellate Advocacy**, as director of appellate advocacy. "I'm delighted that Professor Finley has accepted this position, given her extensive appellate experience arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court and numerous courts of appeals," O'Rourke says. "I'm confident that there is no one better in the state to lead us in this area."

In addition, **Associate Professor Christine Bartholomew** has joined the institute's National Board of Advisors – the only active UB School of Law faculty member in that high-powered advisory group. "Professor Bartholomew is not only an astonishingly productive and influential scholar, she is also one of the most admired educators at UB and has extensive litigation experience," O'Rourke says. "The institute needs someone with her unique and well informed perspective on legal education."

O'Rourke says the Advocacy Institute is well positioned to gain a national reputation, by raising its visibility and providing students with a holistic educational experience. And that approach is already paying off with regularity. UB School of Law teams won the Queens District Attorney's Mock Trial Competition this past academic year, and moved on to advanced rounds in every appellate advocacy and mediation competition they entered during the prior academic year.

2018 Representation in Mediation Competition

First Place Team:

Bridget Williams '19 and
Bridget M. Morgan '19

2019 National Trial Competition, Buffalo

Best Direct Examination:

William F. Fitzgerald '19

2019 New York State Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section's Inaugural Mediation Tournament, New York City

First Place Team:

Rachel Vicario '20,
Darian Wilkom '20 and
Kristin Markarian '20

Best Mediator Award:

Rachel Vicario '20



Terrence M. Connors '71 (right) at our 2018 Commencement Ceremony.

For the Advocacy Institute, the next step is a giant leap.

Led by **Terrence M. Connors '71**, chair of the institute's national advisory board, the institute has set an ambitious goal of raising at least \$5 million in the next three to seven years to establish a permanent endowment – one that will bring a level of funding certainty to its vital educational work.

Connors has started the momentum with a substantial additional investment in the institute to help begin the endowment campaign.

"The alumni and the School of Law have been very generous to the Advocacy Institute over the years," says Director **Anthony O'Rourke, Joseph W. Belluck and Laura L. Aswad Professor of Civil Justice**. "Those contributions have been essential to the institute's growth and day-to-day successes. Now the time has come for us to start a new chapter with the creation of this endowment."

"With Terry's gift, we are on the road to ensuring that the Advocacy Institute runs independently and in perpetuity. Terry has been staggering in his generosity, not just in financial terms but in the energy he lends to the institute and its work."

O'Rourke notes that the endowment would produce a permanent stream of income for the institute. "The law school and the dean remain committed to our Advocacy Institute," he says. "The endowment will provide us with sustained resources and the ability to address future programming needs."

Connors, a well-known Buffalo trial attorney, was a founding donor when the Advocacy Institute was first established and was instrumental in raising more than \$750,000 to launch the institute. "My investment in the Advocacy Institute is one of the best investments I have ever made," says Connors. "The yield is clear. Terrific advocates graduate each year and they are courtroom-ready. Year after year, Advocacy Institute graduates are on a faster track to litigation success. The return on your investment is tangible."

To be part of the endowment initiative, contact:

Karen R. Kaczmarek '89
Vice Dean for Advancement
(716) 645-6429
krkacz@buffalo.edu

Long days, vital work at the U.S.-Mexico border

They started work at 7 a.m. and typically called it quits around 9 p.m. Working in teams, they interviewed 60 or 70 people every day, for a week straight.

The flood of people coming to the nation's southern border seeking asylum continues unabated, and this past January our students stepped up to provide some much-needed support to these refugees. Six law students were part of **Assistant Clinical Professor Nicole Hallett's** U.S.-Mexico Border Clinic course. They traveled to Dilley, Texas, to counsel women being held with their children at the South Texas Family Residential Center.

In conjunction with the CARA Family Detention Pro Bono Project, the students worked under a practice order to advance the cases of detainees – many of them from violence-plagued Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras – who are seeking asylum in the United States.

Serving 321 clients in all, the students and their professor met with asylum seekers, heard their stories and worked with them to craft the testimony they would give before an asylum officer. The goal: to help these women demonstrate that they had a “credible fear” of harm if they returned to their home countries, and that their fear would qualify them for asylum under U.S. law.

“They needed to show a significant possibility that they would prevail at a hearing on the merits,” Hallett says. “Every single woman had a credible fear, but that’s not enough under U.S. asylum law. We helped them figure out how to tell their story and what they should focus on.”

“All of these women had suffered trauma; they were all afraid for their lives and the lives of their families and kids. But they wouldn’t have any chance at all without representation. You’re essentially giving them a chance.”



View a video about the Clinic's work

Left to right: Sarah M. Grimaldi '20 (J.D.), Deonna M. Jones '19 (J.D.), Charles R. Terranova '20 (J.D.), Rosellen D. Marohn '20 (J.D.), Heather R. Kimmins '20 (J.D.), Leighann Ramirez '20 (J.D./MSW), Dijana Savija (Ph.D. candidate, College of Arts and Sciences), Teresa Watson '19 (MSW) and Assistant Clinical Professor Nicole Hallett

Rosellen Marohn '20, one of the clinic students, says the government's restrictions made the work difficult on a human level. For example, no touching was allowed, not even a friendly pat on the arm. For their clients, she says, “it can be very intimidating and scary. We were dealing with women who were meeting with someone they had never met before, who may not speak their language, working through an interpreter.”

“The whole experience felt dehumanizing in a way, because you were restricted in how you could share your humanity. But they’re still people. Especially in the media when we talk about immigration and immigrants, we forget that it’s a mom or a daughter or someone’s sister.”



A pathway to justice through experiential learning

#UBLawResponds

Through clinical programs and practicum courses, UB School of Law student attorneys use their new legal skills to provide access to justice where it's needed most. Whether drafting new legislation or advocating for the otherwise unrepresented, our students are stepping up and standing out as champions and change-makers.



Family Violence & Women's Rights

Educating our teens

Student attorneys joined forces with New York State Assembly Member **Monica P. Wallace '94** to draft proposed state legislation requiring school districts to offer age-appropriate curricula in teen dating violence prevention to students in grades 7 to 12.



Civil Liberties & Transparency Clinic

Ensuring accountability

Orlando Dickson '19 and **Colton Kells '20**

drafted policy reports for the Buffalo Police Advisory Board and testified before the Common Council's Police Oversight Committee on the appropriate use of body cams.



Health Justice Law & Policy Practicum

Developing partnerships

Law students have joined students from UB's School of Medicine to provide a holistic approach to health care. The student-run Lighthouse Clinic has offered health care services to residents of Buffalo's East Side since 2001. Law students will expand the care patients receive, helping to identify legal issues they may be facing and providing remedies through the legal system.



Puerto Rico Recovery Assistance Legal Clinic

Aiding in disaster recovery

The law school remains committed to the post-Hurricane Maria recovery of Puerto Rico. Law students, faculty and staff have returned to the island to provide continued legal assistance to its residents and expand their legal work in the areas of resiliency policy and food justice.



Environmental Advocacy Clinic

Protecting our wetlands

READ MORE



After six years and approximately 1,500 hours of legal and policy work, EAC student attorneys obtained designation of the Niagara River

Corridor as the United States' 40th Ramsar site, recognizing it as a wetland of international importance.



Community Justice Clinic

Advocating for fair treatment

The Community Justice Clinic tackled the problem of wage theft in Buffalo's restaurant industry, filing suit on behalf of several employees of a local restaurant alleging wage theft and sexual harassment by their employer.



Animal Law Clinic

Providing a voice for the voiceless

The City of Buffalo passed a new law prohibiting the tethering of dogs for more than an hour in extreme weather conditions. The law was drafted by UB School of Law student attorneys.



Veterans Legal Practicum

Serving those who served

Practicum students staff dedicated help desks on campus and in the community to provide veterans with general information and referrals to address their unique legal needs.





Left to right: Vice Dean for Student Affairs Bernadette J. Gargano, Gayle T. Murphy '86, Jodyann Galvin '98, Charles S. Carra, Katherine L. Dibble '11, Hon. William M. Skretny and Kristin Johnson

Federal Court Pro Se Assistance Program celebrates its 5th anniversary

Since 2014 the law school in conjunction with the Erie County Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Project has brought much-needed assistance to pro se defendants in the Buffalo and Rochester regions. Under the supervision of **Vice Dean Bernadette Gargano** and attorneys from VLP, law students staff a help desk at federal court, conduct intake interviews, confer with VLP attorneys, do legal research and guide pro se litigants through the court system. And the numbers show that the program's impact has been great.

- 513 cases in total
- 1,136 low-income clients
- 793 pro bono volunteer hours
- 59 pro bono attorneys

Statistics from January 2014 to January 2019

Judge Skretny:

“The Western District Federal Court's collaboration with UB School of Law and the Volunteer Lawyers Project on the Pro Se Assistance Program is one of the most important of our court's initiatives. The mission of the program goes to the core of our legal system. And it has succeeded at promoting equal access to justice for all, without regard to their financial circumstances.”

Vice Dean Gargano:

“The strength of this program lies in the collaboration among University at Buffalo School of Law, our community partners VLP and VLSP, the U.S. District Court for the WDNY, and volunteer lawyers, who donate their time and expertise in providing pro bono legal services. Although the work remains largely the same from five years ago, the longevity of the program speaks to its importance in the local and regional community.”

All aboard for public service

What to do when disadvantaged residents lack transportation to get the legal help they need? One answer: take the legal help right to them.

That's the idea behind the Justice Bus – a 12-passenger van that will transport lawyers and law students to provide on-the-spot legal help to poor and disabled people in Western New York. It's an initiative of Neighborhood Legal Services, joined by community partners including Volunteer Lawyers Project, the Western New York Law Center and UB School of Law.

The Justice Bus will travel to underserved Buffalo



Interested in volunteering?
Contact Lauren E. Breen '89
lbreen@nls.org
(716) 847-0650

neighborhoods and to rural areas of Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming counties with volunteer attorneys, law students and legal services staff members.

Expanding summer fellowships to ensure success

Summer experience in a law-related position is critical to launching a law student's legal career. That first summer job is often a future attorney's entry into the professional legal community where they can build their skills and their network, putting them in a strong position when they interview in their second and third years.

Some of the most impactful summer experiences include prestigious clerkships with members of the judiciary, or opportunities to advocate for justice at non-profit organizations – positions that are typically unpaid.

Since 1993, vigorous fund-raising by the student-run Buffalo Public Interest Law Program, as well as a few alumni-funded fellowships, has helped cover summer living expenses for dozens of students each year, allowing them to provide assistance to those in need of legal help while learning to practice in the process. Yet despite BPILP's impressive record of success, the need remains great. Nearly 40 percent of last year's first-year class would have benefitted from a fellowship if additional funding had been available.

The solution: the law school's initiative to secure financial support for that critical first summer. "We were very excited to launch our 1L Summer Fellowship initiative earlier this year," says **Dean Aviva**

Abramovsky. "We are committed to raising enough financial support to make sure that *every one of our 1L students* has the ability to pursue opportunities that will give them a jump-start in their legal careers and position them for success."

Ensuring those opportunities is contingent on external support. The law school is reaching out to alumni asking them to make a significant difference in a student's professional life with a relatively modest gift.

"A lot of our students are not financially privileged, and sometimes they have to make a really hard choice: Take a great unpaid legal position but have a hard time financially? Or keep my job as a server or in retail so that I can pay my bills over the summer?" says **Karen R. Kaczmarzski '89**, vice dean for advancement and senior director of development.



Natalia Marte '20 (in green), 2018 Catalyst Public Service Fellow, with attorneys outside the Bronx Defenders Office.

Summer fellowships make that choice easier. Typically about \$3,000, they cover a student's living expenses while he or she gains invaluable experience in the legal field. The law school is seeking gifts of \$3,000 – or, for even greater impact, pledges of that amount yearly over three or five years, or even major gifts that would endow a fellowship forever.

Many UB law alumni have already responded to the call. They include **Jean Powers '79**, a Dean's Advisory Council member who learned of the initiative at the group's fall meeting.

Powers – whose own 1L summer was spent caring for her 4-year-old daughter – designated her gift for a student who'll work at the Volunteer Lawyers Project, in which she has been active. She sees benefits to the idea even beyond the individual student's development.

"Everybody wins," Powers says.

"Students get an opportunity to work after their first year. The nonprofits get volunteer help they wouldn't otherwise have, and more of their clients get assistance. And because there's a distinct correlation between that summer job and getting full-time legal employment after graduation, it has a direct effect on our law school's rankings, which benefits all of us."

That pathway to success has held true for third-year student **Christopher Phillips '20**, who spent his 1L summer at Western New York's Center for Elder Law & Justice with BPILP fellowship support.

As a summer intern, Phillips spent the summer drafting legal documents for the organization's Guardianship Unit, which oversees about 100 Article 81 guardianships for persons who have been deemed incapacitated by the courts. The unit includes two attorneys, a paralegal, a social worker and an accountant. "I worked with a lot of great people at the agency whom I really identified with, and I came to really enjoy the job," Phillips reports. "Having the fellowship for the summer helped launch all of this. It really eased the financial strain."

To be a part of our fellowship initiative, contact:

Karen Kaczmarzski at (716) 645-6429;
krkacz@buffalo.edu

"The bus is going to enable us to reach people in those counties who may never find their way to (one of our offices)," says **Lauren Breen '89**, executive director of Neighborhood Legal Services and a former UB School of Law faculty member. "A lot of our clients can't afford an attorney, so it's really critical that we are able to serve our rural areas better." The goal is to provide legal help to those who need help addressing basic needs such as food, shelter and safety.

For public-minded UB School of Law students, the Justice Bus is another opportunity to build real-world lawyering skills and do their part in improving residents' access to justice.

"This is not just information referral, but technical assistance,"

says **Melinda R. Saran '86**, the law school's vice dean for social justice initiatives. "It gives the students a chance to work on their interview skills, their issue-spotting skills, how to communicate with clients, how to refer them to the right practitioner. They'll do intake interviewing, make sure they're eligible for services, help them with filling out forms. If something's easily resolved, they can give them the appropriate form or tell them where to go to resolve the issue. And if they do need an attorney, students will make sure they get to the right attorney."

New faces

We are pleased to welcome the newest additions to our law school:



Tolulope Odunsi

Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

While she continues teaching courses in the school's Legal Analysis, Writing and Research sequence, Odunsi has been named Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. In her new role, she focuses on deepening the diversity of the law school community and developing external partnerships to support those efforts, including directing Discover Law, the law school's award-winning diversity pipeline program.

"My role is to make sure that everyone feels included. That includes making sure that our faculty are culturally competent toward student needs, making sure that the students are aware of specific opportunities for students of color, encouraging students if they want to have a cohort. We need students to know they have a space here and they're welcomed in our academic environment."



Matthew Delaney

Business Officer

"Having recently moved to Buffalo, I am eager to play an important role in shaping business enhancement efforts at the School of

Law during a challenging financial climate within higher education. I welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the amazing and greatly experienced scholars, teachers, students, alums and staff."



Angelyn McDuff '12

Legal Analysis, Writing and Research Instructor

"I've previously taught courses in international legal advocacy and coached the law school's teams in the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. It was wonderful and fulfilling, and I loved the

students. And I realized that I needed something else to make me feel like the work I was doing mattered. The great thing about the LAWR program is that it allows focused and individualized feedback so each student can grow the skills they need to become successful lawyers."



Laurel Root

Manager of Recruitment and International Enrollment Services

"I'm thrilled to have joined the School of Law after earning my graduate degree from the University at Buffalo and working as an international student recruiter for UB. It's a

pleasure to work directly with applicants from all over the world who are interested in issues related to social justice and who are committed to making a positive impact through the legal system."



Emilie Rosenbluth

Associate Director of Advancement

"With our alumni all over the world, I look forward to learning what has inspired each of them, how

UB School of Law changed their lives, and how we can all work together to ensure the best possible experience for our students."



First floor classroom

New spaces

Coming soon

Thanks to the support of the University, big changes are in the works in O'Brian Hall, including significant renovations to two first-floor classrooms, a large new classroom at the basement level, and a new bathroom with changing facilities. Here's a sneak peek at what's on its way!



Above: Basement classroom
Top, left: New bathroom and lockers
Left: Exterior

Honoring our 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients

May 9, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency, Buffalo



For the Judiciary

Hon. Alexander W. Hunter Jr. '74

Judge, United Nations Dispute Tribunal Justice (Ret.), NYS Supreme Court Appellate Term, First Dept. New York City



For Private Practice

Daniel C. Oliverio '82

Partner & Chairman Emeritus Hodgson Russ LLP Buffalo



For Community Service

Lenora B. Foote-Beavers '97

Executive Assistant to the Presiding Justice NYS Supreme Court Appellate Division, Fourth Dept. Buffalo



For Business

Christopher A. Wightman '99

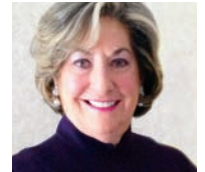
Partner, PJT Camberview San Francisco



For Public Service

Caroline A. Wojtaszek '97

District Attorney, Niagara County Lockport, N.Y.



For Outstanding Service to the University and the Community by a Non-Alumna

Ilene R. Fleischmann

Vice Dean for Alumni UB School of Law Buffalo



Left to right: Christopher A. Wightman '99, Ilene R. Fleischmann, Hon. Alexander Hunter '74, Lenora Foote-Beavers '97, Dinner Co-Chair Melissa H. Nickson '97, Caroline A. Wojtaszek '97, Daniel C. Oliverio '82 and Dinner Co-Chair Kevin J. Espinosa '09

EVENTS ONLINE: [Watch a video of the awards presentation](#)

Alumni Connections



NEW YORK CITY

Alumni Networking Reception at the One World Observatory

Members of the NYC Alumni Chapter with Vice Dean for Advancement Karen R. Kaczmarek '89 (far left) and Vice Dean for Alumni Ilene R. Fleischmann (third from right)



CENTRAL NEW YORK

Spring Alumni Reception

Chuck E. Patton '94, Hon. Michael L. Hanuszcak '84 and Diane E. Orosz '18



WASHINGTON, D.C.

DC Chapter's Welcome Reception at U.S. District Courthouse

Rebecca A. Valentine '20, Shelby J. Scibetta '20, Meghan L. McElligott '20, Destiny M. Johnson '20 and D.C. Chapter Co-Chair Meredith Jolie '03



GOLD GROUP

Fall Social in downtown Buffalo

Nicholas A. Romano '13, Alexander D. Vilardo '18 and Martha M. Pigott '18



ROCHESTER, N.Y.

CLE with New York State Appellate Division Justices, Fourth Judicial Department

Hon. Nancy E. Smith, Hon. Stephen K. Lindley '89, Hon. John M. Curran '84 and Hon. Joanne M. Winslow

With gratitude for an outstanding year

The law school and the Law Alumni Association extend their appreciation and congratulations to **Marc W. Brown '99**, 2018–19 president of the UB Law Alumni Association. Under Marc's leadership, the LAA expanded its programming and its outreach to our students, created new networking opportunities for our alumni locally and throughout our chapters, and established a new strategic planning committee to ensure the association's continued success in the future.

Says Dean Aviva Abramovsky: "I am



Left to right: UB President Satish K. Tripathi, Marc W. Brown '99 and Dean Aviva Abramovsky

very grateful to Marc Brown and the entire Law Alumni Association and GOLD Group Board of Directors for all of their hard work this year, especially their leadership of our mentoring and job placement efforts. I have been very vocal about the power of mentorship and the importance of finding jobs for every one of our students. The Law Alumni Association has stepped up to help us meet that challenge, and as a result, our 10-month placement rate continues to improve."

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Please join us as we honor

Michael A. Battle '81

Partner, Barnes & Thornburg LLP

with the

2020 Edwin F. Jaeckle Award

the highest honor

the University at Buffalo School of Law

and the Law Alumni Association

can bestow

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020

Noon to 2 p.m.

The Union League Club

38 E. 37th St.

New York City

For more details, visit: law.buffalo.edu/AlumniEvent or call the Alumni Office at (716) 645-2107.

law.buffalo.edu

**BOLDLY
BUFFALO**
THE CAMPAIGN FOR UB

Now, more than ever, our nation needs
UB-educated lawyers. To learn how you
can help create a better world, visit
buffalo.edu/campaign.